



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

\*\*\***NEWS RELEASE**\*\*\*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DPI 2008-125

Wednesday, September 3, 2008

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**Schools encouraged to offer  
School Breakfast and National School Lunch programs**

MADISON—With the start of the new school year, State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster reminds Wisconsin schools and school districts that they can contract with the Department of Public Instruction to provide school breakfast and lunch to students for the 2008-09 school year.

“Hungry children can’t learn,” Burmaster said. “The School Breakfast and National School Lunch programs serve healthy meals to meet children’s nutritional needs. I encourage every school to participate in these programs so our students have access to low-cost meals that will help them learn.”

During the 2007-08 school year, 2,530 public and private schools served 21 million breakfasts and 98 million lunches. About one-third of those meals were served at free or reduced-prices for students from economically disadvantaged families.

All students are eligible to eat school meals in schools that participate in the School Breakfast or National School Lunch programs. Students may qualify for free or reduced-price breakfasts or lunches based on U.S. Department of Agriculture

(USDA) income guidelines. Applications for free or reduced-price school meals are available at each school and may be made at any time during the school year. Parents or guardians complete a form, providing the names and income from all sources of all household members and the Social Security Number for the adult signing the form. Families that receive FoodShare or Wisconsin Works (W-2)

<b>Family Size Annual Income Scale</b>			
For Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price Meals or Milk - 2008-09 School Year			
Household Size	<b>Free</b> (Must Be at or Below)	<b>Reduced-Price</b> (Must Be at or Between)	
1	\$13,520	\$13,520.01 &	\$19,240
2	18,200	18,200.01 &	25,900
3	22,880	22,880.01 &	32,560
4	27,560	27,560.01 &	39,220
5	32,240	32,240.01 &	45,880
6	36,920	36,920.01 &	52,540
7	41,600	41,600.01 &	59,200
8	46,280	46,280.01 &	65,860
For Each Additional Household Member Add	4,680	4,680 &	6,660

(more)

benefits are eligible for free meals or free milk by providing the names and case number for each child on the application. All information is kept confidential, and no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.

Schools that do not participate in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast programs may offer milk to students through the USDA's Special Milk Program, also administered by the DPI.

Meals in schools and snacks in after-school care programs served through these USDA nutrition programs must meet standards based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

"School meals are nutritionally balanced. They are the appropriate size and include a variety of foods to help children learn good eating habits," Burmaster said. "Studies have shown that students who eat school meals perform better in math, reading, and other subjects; are more attentive in class; and have better behavior in school. School meals can help our efforts to fight childhood obesity and close the achievement gap."

The National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs are federally assisted meal programs operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential childcare institutions. They provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free meals to children each school day. The USDA purchases commodities from farmers, including those from Wisconsin, to distribute to programs nationwide. Wisconsin schools and institutions participating in child nutrition programs administered by the DPI received approximately \$196 million in cash and commodity subsidies from state and federal sources during the 2007-08 school year to run breakfast and lunch programs.

In accordance with federal law and USDA policy, the DPI is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to the USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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**NOTE:** This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008\\_125.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_125.pdf). Information on eligibility for free and reduced-price school lunch and school breakfast can be found on the Department of Public Instruction Community and School Nutrition Programs website at <http://dpi.wi.gov/fns/fincou1.html>. Scroll to the section on **Income Eligibility Guidelines** and click on "School Year 2008-2009."